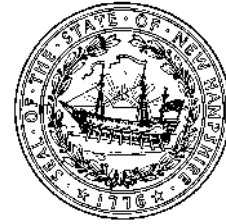


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DHHS to Partner with National Center for Healthy Housing on New Healthy Homes Initiative

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health Services announces an agreement with the National Center for Healthy Housing, Inc. of Columbia, Maryland, to research, develop, and produce a plan for the NH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's (CLPPP) Healthy Homes Project.

“As we move toward the goal of elimination of childhood lead poisoning by 2010,” said Nicholas Toumpas, Commissioner of DHHS, “public health in New Hampshire needs to broaden the focus on home environmental and health risk factors to address new concerns and issues. A growing body of evidence links housing conditions to health outcomes such as asthma, lung cancer, and unintentional injuries.”

A “healthy home” is a home designed, constructed, maintained, or rehabilitated in a manner that supports the health of residents. The focus of this new undertaking is to identify health, safety, and quality-of-life issues in the home environment and to act systematically to eliminate or mitigate problems.

The National Center for Healthy Housing, Inc., will collect and document data and design a plan to implement a Healthy Homes Program to align the New Hampshire CLPPP with federal healthy homes initiatives with an emphasis on prevention.

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“This is an exciting new focus for those of us in public health,” said Mary Ann Cooney, Director of Public Health, “and one that will have a big impact on many people. The goal is to ultimately address housing health issues before a child is poisoned by lead or someone is affected by another environmental health hazard.”

Healthy homes is one of the topics DHHS is focusing on this week in recognition of National Public Health Week. For more information about healthy homes, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthyhomes.htm. For more information about National Public Health Week visit www.nphw.org.

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